

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

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C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 8961

NEA ONLY- FOR LANDE FROM CHARGE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AF

SUBJ: CORRESPONDENCE

1. APPRECIATE YOUR LETTER OF DECMEBER 2 ON NARCOTICS MATTERS AND OF COURSE WE SHARE YOUR CONCERN THAT THE U.S. NOT GET INTO SOMETHING WHICH IS NOT PRACTICAL OR CANNOT BE SUPPORTED BY OURSELVES OR THE GOVERNMENT OF AFGHANISTAN (GOA).

2. I BELIEVE THAT OUR 8764 SHOULD BE READ WITHIN TWO CONTEXTS. THE FIRST IS THE INCREASINGLY WARM FEELINGS TOWARDS US OF THE LEADERSHIP OF THE GOVERNMENT OF AFGHANISTAN, PARTICULARLY THAT OF MR. NAIM, BASED UPON HIS JUNE 1976 VISIT TO WASHINGTON AND THE SUBSEQUENT STOP OF AGUSUT BY SECRETARY KISSINGER IN KABUL. THE SECOND CONTEXT IS THE FACT OF AMBASSADOR VANCE'S NOVEMBER 1976 VISIT TO KABUL FOLLOWED CLOSELY BY THAT OF CODEL WOLFF. THE RESULT OF THESE TWO VISITS IS A STRONG IMPRESSION IN THE GOA THAT THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT ARE DETERMINED TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT CONTROL OF OPIUM. THIS MESHERS WITH PRESIDENT DAOUD'S OWN CONVICTION THAT NARCOTICS IS A DISGRACEFUL TRADE. AFGHAN ANTI-POPPY SENSITIVITIES ALSO WERE STIMULATED BY THE DE BEUS VISIT AND THE UNFDAC DIRECTOR'S WILLINGNESS TO INFORM DAOUD FRANKLY THAT OPIUM POPPIES FLOURISHED HERE AT THE TIME OF THE DE BEUS VISIT IN MAY 1976.

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3. I WAS PRESENT AT ALL THE MEETINGS VANCE AND CODEL WOLFF HAD WITH THE LEADERS OF THE GOA. WHEN THE MATTER OF BILATERAL ASSISTANCE (RAISED BY BENSINGER) WAS ACCEPTED IN PRINCIPLE BY NAIM AND WAHEED ABDULLAH AND WAS SEIZED UPON BY CODEL WOLFF, I SUGGESTED TO THE CODEL THAT THIS BE RAISED WITH PRESIDENT DAOUD HIMSELF SINCE I FELT IT WAS SUCH AN UNUSUAL CHANGE IN GOA POLICY. LATER IN THE VISIT, CONGRESSMAN WOLFF DID RAISE IT WITH THE PRESIDENT AND PRESIDENT DAOUD MADE THE STATEMENT REPORTED IN KABUL 8473 ON THE ACCEPTABILITY OF BILATERAL ASSISTANCE.

4. OUR CABLE 8764 WAS AN ATTEMPT TO ARTICULATE, AT THE REQUEST OF VANCE AND CHAIRMAN WOLFF, WHAT SEEMED TO US THE REQUIREMENTS FOR RESOURCE INPUTS BY THE UNITED STATES AND THE GOA IF IN FACT BOTH SIDES ARE SERIOUS ABOUT NARCOTICS PRODUCTION AND TRADE CONTROLS. OBVIOUSLY, THE EMBASSY IN KABUL IS NOT TIED TO ANY TIMETABLE AND WE WILL LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING WASHINGTON'S VIEWS ON HOW THE PHASING OUGHT TO BE DESIGNED.

5. I THINK IT IS OF INTEREST THAT SEVERAL OF THE PHASE I RESOURCE INPUTS SEEM TO BE FAIRLY WELL ALONG. FOR EXAMPLE, AMBASSADOR VANCE AGREED WHILE IN KABUL TO SUPPLY THE INDIVIDUALS MENTIONED IN PHASE I, PARAS 1 AND 4 WHILE HE WAS IN KABUL. ADMINISTRATOR BENSINGER WAS OF THE OPINION THERE WERE NO DEA FINANCIAL PROBLEMS WITH PROVIDING THE SUPPORT MENTIONED IN PARAS 2 AND 6. WE ARE ALREADY WELL DOWN THE ROAD OF WORKING ON THE SUGGESTION IN PARA 3 AND BILL HALLMAN IS MEETING REGULARLY WITH THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ON THE AFGHAN PHASE I INPUTS.

6. IN IS PHASE 2 THAT WILL REQUIRE THE UTMOST IN CAREFUL PLANNING AND AGREEMENT. WE ARE CONSIDERING HERE, FOR EXAMPLE, HOW U.S. -SUPPLIED ENFORCEMENT EQUIPMENT MIGHT BE MANAGED IN THE ABSENCE OF WHAT OUTSIDE EXPERTS SAY IS THE LACK OF ANY GOA COMPETENCE TO DO SO NOW OR IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. THE SAME

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EXPERTS THINK IT IS OUT OF THE QUESTION THAT DEA WOULD EVER BE PERMITTED TO OPERATE IN AFGHANISTAN AS THEY APPARENTLY ARE ABLE TO IN COOPERATION WITH MEXICO USING SUCH METHODS AS DEFOLIATION AND HELICOPTER SPOTTING TEAMS. KABUL 8764 WAS INTENDED TO PROVIDE A PLAN, HOWEVER, FOR U.S. TO MOVE AS FAR AND AS FAST AS SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN PERMITS.

7. I WILL BE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR PERSPECTIVES ON THIS
SITUATION AS IT DEVELOPS AND PARTICULARLY FOR YOUR
READING OF WHETHER AND HOW DEA WILL BE ABLE TO
RESPOND TO THE SITUATION HERE IN AFGHANISTAN.

8. ALL OF US HERE ARE KEENLY AWARE THAT THE U.S. MUST
NOT COMMIT EXCESSIVE RESOURCES TO UNMANAGEABLE PROGRAMS.
HOWEVER, I THINK WE ALSO SHOULD BE CAREFUL THAT WE NOT
MISS AN OPPORTUNITY TO RESPOND CREATIVELY IF INDEED THE
GOA IS SERIOUS ABOUT COOPERATING WITH THE UNITED STATES
IN MOVING VIGOROUSLY AGAINST OPIUM PRODUCTION AND TRADE.
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